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## Description

The present invention relates to a method of velocity filtering seismic signals, and to an installation for implementing the method.

The invention relates to studying underground formations, in particular by the so-called "Vertical Seismic Profile" technique in which a seismic wave detector is placed in a borehole successively at different depths, with seismic waves being emitted from a source on the surface and with the signals produced by the detector being recorded.

The essential purpose of these measurements is to determine the reflective horizons or reflectors which are situated deeper than the bottom of the borehole by analyzing the waves reflected on these reflectors and rising towards the detector, which waves are called "upgoing" waves.

However, the detected waves comprise not only the upgoing waves, but also waves known as "downgoing" waves which are waves that have propagated directly from the source to the detector, waves which have been subjected to multiple reflections, and interfering waves of various kinds.

By putting together all of the recorded signals in a single document, it is possible to detect coherencies between the various traces, but given the multiplicity of superposed components in each signal, such a document is extremely difficult to interpret.

In order to detect reflectors and their positions, it is therefore desirable to filter the recorded signals in order to show up the upgoing waves.

A first filter method for reinforcing a given wave component in a set of signals recorded at levels  $z_i$  (where  $i$  lies between 1 and  $n$ ) is described in patent document FR-A-2 494 450. This filtering consists in advancing the  $m$  ( $m < n$ ) first signals  $g_i(t)$  recorded at levels  $z_i$  by a time  $t_i$  where  $2 < i < m$  relative to the signal  $g_1(t)$  at level  $z_1$  in order to align the downgoing wave components and produce a first signal by adding together the signals shifted in this way. Similarly, a second signal is produced by adding together recorded signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < m$  after delaying the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < m$  by a time  $t_i$  relative to the signal  $g_1(t)$ . The first and second signals are then combined in order to produce a signal  $u_1$  representative of an optimum estimation of the upgoing wave component. Signals  $u_2, \dots, u_k$  are produced in the same manner from a set of  $m$  recorded signals  $\{g_2(t), \dots, g_{m+1}(t)\}, \dots, \{g_k(t), \dots, g_{m+k-1}(t)\}, \dots$

This method suffers from the drawback of reinforcing, in practice, only those waves which are aligned in the recorded signals after they have been shifted, whereas waves having different velocities simply do not show up.

There also exists the so-called F-K velocity filter method which serves to separate upgoing waves from downgoing waves. Reference can be made to "Vertical Seismic Profiling" by B.A. Hardage, Geophysical Press, 1983, pp. 175-179 for a detailed description of this method.

In this method, the set of signals  $g_i(t)$  recorded by the detector at depths  $z_i$  for  $1 < i < n$  is taken to be a two dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  and the following successive operations are performed:

- The two-dimensional Fourier transform  $G(k, w)$  of the signal  $g(z, t)$  is calculated where  $k$  and  $w$  are the dual variables of  $z$  and  $t$  respectively in the Fourier transform; the signal  $G(k, w)$  has the advantage that the upgoing waves are to be found in the quadrant  $k > 0, w > 0$  and the downgoing waves are in the quadrant  $k < 0, w > 0$ ;
- The coefficients contained in the quadrant  $k < 0, w > 0$  are set to zero or are multiplied by a small factor, e.g.  $10^{-3}$ ; and
- The inverse two-dimensional Fourier transform is calculated and in the resulting signal  $g_a(z, t)$  the downgoing waves are highly attenuated.

This method suffers from problems due to side-effects because of the sharp cut-off between those coefficients which are modified in operation b) and the other coefficients which are not modified. In particular, this gives rise to artifacts and to spectrum folding during operation c).

Further, the Fourier transform using each of the variables  $z$  and  $t$  requires a certain number of samples to be available. This is no problem for the variable  $t$  since there are generally several thousand points available along the  $t$ -axis, given that each signal is recorded over a period of several seconds and that the sampling period is about 1 ms. In contrast, the number of points available along the  $z$ -axis depends on the number of levels at which signals are recorded, and this is much less.

In order to perform the Fourier transform on the variable  $z$ , it is necessary to have at least 64 different recording levels, with the gap between consecutive levels being no greater than a value related to the highest frequency in the received signal and to the lowest propagation velocity, with a typical value being about 10 meters (m). Such a procedure is too expensive.

Another known velocity filter is known as the Tau-P method. This method is equivalent to the F-K method but has the advantage of being suitable for implementation with a smaller number of signals, thereby reducing

measurement costs. However, this method suffers from the same defects of artifacts and spectrum folding as the F-K method.

The aim of the invention is to eliminate the defects of artifacts and of spectrum folding which appear, in particular, in the above-mentioned prior methods. The invention also seeks to make it possible to perform velocity filtering on a small number of recorded signals in order to reduce the cost of on-site measuring and to simplify the processing performed on the signals.

More precisely, the present invention provides a method of seismic exploration by filtering a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  built up from a set of signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 \leq i \leq n$  as produced by at least one seismic wave detector placed at different depths  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in a borehole, each of said signals being produced in response to seismic waves being emitted, and said signals including upgoing wave components and downgoing wave components, said filtering consisting in separating said components and the method being characterized in that the operator A is applied to the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ , where:

$$A = 1/2 [Id + \epsilon B H_t D_z]$$

in which:

Id is the identity operator;

B is a normalization factor whose value depends on the signal to which the operator A is applied;

$H_t$  is the one-dimensional Hilbert operator with respect to the variable  $t$ ;

D is a differentiation operator with respect to the variable  $z$ ; and

$\epsilon$  is an integer equal to +1 or -1;

said operator being applied recursively to said two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ , with the resulting signal being predominantly constituted by upgoing waves when  $\epsilon = +1$  and by downgoing waves when  $\epsilon = -1$ .

The normalization factor B may be defined, for a function  $g$ , as follows:

$$B = \frac{\sqrt{\|H_t \cdot D_z(g)\|}}{\sqrt{\|g\|}}$$

where  $\| \cdot \|$  indicates the L2 norm of the function.

It will thus be understood that when the operator A is applied recursively to a signal, the normalization factor B must be recalculated for each iteration as a function of the signal to which the operator A is applied.

The Hilbert operator  $H_t$  may be defined as follows:

$$H_t(g(t)) = FT^{-1}[j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot FT(g(t))]$$

where:

$g(t)$  is a function of the variable  $t$ ;

$FT^{-1}$  is the inverse Fourier transform;

$j$  is the complex operator such that  $j^2 = -1$ ;

$\text{sgn}$  is the sign function which is equal to +1 or -1 or 0 depending on whether a variable is positive, negative, or zero;

$\omega$  is the dual variable of the variable  $t$ ; and

FT represents the Fourier transform.

Thus, the method in accordance with the invention uses the Fourier transform for the variable  $t$  for which the number of samples available is commonly several thousand, while the differentiation operator  $D_z$  applied to the variable  $z$  does not require a large number of recordings  $z_i$  to be available.

The differentiation operator  $D_z$  applied to a signal  $g(z)$  is defined by:

$$D_z[g(z)] = \sum_{n=1}^1 \frac{g(z+2n-1) - g(z-2n+1)}{2n-1}$$

where  $l$  is a parameter whose value may for instance be 1 or 2.

The method of the invention can also be used to perform so-called "fan" filtering so as to retain only those waves having velocities lying between two predetermined velocities  $V_{C1}$  and  $V_{C2}$ . This is done as follows : the recorded signals  $g_l(t)$ ,  $2 < l < n$  constituting the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  are shifted in time relative to one another so that the components of waves of velocity  $V_{C1}$  appear at the same instant in each signal ; the shifted two-dimensional signal is then filtered in accordance with the invention and the resulting signal is time shifted to cancel the initial shift. The same operation is performed for the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  for the velocity  $V_{C2}$  in order to produce a second two-dimensional signal. The difference between the two two-dimensional signals is then taken in order to produce a two-dimensional signal comprising only those waves whose velocities lie between  $V_{C1}$  and  $V_{C2}$ .

The characteristics and advantages of the invention appear more clearly from the following description, given by way of illustrative and non-limiting example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which :

Figure 1 is a diagram of an installation for seismic exploration suitable for obtaining a vertical seismic profile ;

Figure 2 shows in highly simplified manner the paths of upgoing and down seismic waves relating to two different positions of the detector ;

Figure 3 shows the positions of the upgoing waves U and the downgoing waves D in the  $\omega$ -k plot of the F-K transform domain ;

Figure 4 is a diagram of the transfer function of the operator R in the  $\omega$ -k plot of the F-K transform domain ;

Figure 5 is a diagram of the transfer function of the operator A in the  $\omega$ -k plot of the F-K transform domain ;

Figures 6 to 9 are respectively a signal recorded by means of an installation in accordance with Figure 1 ; and the upgoing wave signal after one (Figure 7), two (Figure 8) and three (Figure 9) applications of the operator A with  $l = 1$  ;

Figures 10 to 12 respectively show the signal recorded by means of an installation in accordance with Figure 1, and an upgoing wave signal and a downgoing wave signal obtained in accordance with the invention ;

Figure 13 is a flow chart of processing means in an installation for implementing the method in accordance with the invention ;

Figure 14 is a plot of the  $\omega$ -k transform showing the zone containing all of the waves whose velocities lie between the velocities  $V_{C1}$  and  $V_{C2}$  ; and

Figures 15a to 15e are plots showing the filtering of a detected signal  $g(z, t)$  for eliminating waves having a velocity less than  $V_{C1}$  from this signal.

Figure 1 shows an installation for seismic exploration comprising a drilling derrick 2 disposed over a borehole 4 drilled in ground formations 6.

A downhole apparatus 8 including a seismic wave sensor such as a geophone is suspended down the borehole 4 by means of an electric cable 10 which passes over sheaves mounted on the drilling derrick. The cable 10 is used for displacing the apparatus 8 within the borehole and simultaneously serves to transmit the detection signals produced by the sensor towards surface equipment 12. In conventional manner, the surface equipment 12 comprises a winch for winding the cable and means for determining the depth at which the downhole apparatus 8 is located, together with means for processing and recording the detection signals transmitted via the cable 10.

The downhole apparatus 8 may be conventionally constituted by a moving anchor member 14 capable of anchoring in the wall in order to ensure appropriate contact between the sensor and the wall of the borehole. This takes place only when the apparatus 8 has arrived at a depth at which a measurement is to be performed, with the surface equipment 12 then transmitting a message in order to cause the element 14 to move into the anchoring position.

A source of seismic waves 16 is located on the surface at a given distance from the head of the borehole. This source may be constituted by any suitable device such as an air gun. The source 16 is controlled from the surface equipment 12 in order to fire a shot when the downhole apparatus 14 is anchored at one of the specified depths.

Several shots are generally fired for each depth, and all of the signals produced in this way are stored and added together in the surface equipment 12 so as to obtain a signal for each level in which the significant components are reinforced to the detriment of random noise components. This signal is referred to below as the detection signal.

The set of detection signals  $g_l(t)$  obtained at the various levels  $z_l$  for  $1 < l < n$  is used to produce graphic recordings (known as seismic traces) which are put together in a single document called the vertical seismic profile.

Figure 2 shows highly simplified versions of the paths of the sound waves detected by the sensor at two

different levels. Reference 18 designates a reflecting horizon or "reflector" which is deeper than the bottom 20 of the borehole. The reflector 18 is constituted by the interface between two layers of significantly different acoustic impedances.

The sensor placed at  $A_1$  at level  $z_1$  receives a sound wave coming directly from the source and called the downgoing wave, and also receives a wave reflected by the reflector 18, and called the upgoing wave. The upgoing wave needs to be shown up in order to be able to determine the depth of the reflector and also its reflection coefficient.

The detection signal  $g_1(t)$  obtained at level  $z_1$  is thus the sum of a downgoing wave component and an upgoing wave component, and in addition it includes noise components, some of which come from multiple reflections on reflectors situated between the surface and the bottom of the borehole.

The sensor placed at  $A_2$  at level  $z_2$  similarly receives a downgoing wave and an upgoing wave, however the downgoing wave arrives later and the upgoing wave arrives sooner.

The method of the invention consists in processing the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  in order to isolate either the upgoing waves, or else the downgoing waves.

The invention lies firstly in the definition of two functions  $g_u$  and  $g_d$  which correspond respectively to the upgoing waves and to the downgoing waves, and secondly in the use of approximate expressions for these functions in order to provide a velocity filter.

We begin by showing the functions :

$$g_u = 1/2 [g + H_2(g)] \text{ and}$$

$$g_d = 1/2 [g - H_2(g)]$$

where  $H_2$  is the two-dimensional Hilbert transform respectively containing the upgoing waves and the downgoing waves of the recorded signal  $g(z, t)$ .

This is achieved by using the known properties of the Fourier transform. It is known that in the F-K transform domain, the upgoing waves lie in the quadrants for which the variables  $\omega$  and  $k$  have opposite signs, whereas the downgoing waves lie in the quadrants for which the variables  $\omega$  and  $k$  have the same sign.

In the Figure 3 plot, the upgoing waves U lie in quadrants II and IV, and the downgoing waves D lie in quadrants I and III.

Using the definitions of the Fourier and of the Hilbert transforms, the following equation can be deduced :

$$FT[H(f)](\omega) = j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot FT[f](\omega) \quad (1)$$

where :

FT and H are the one-dimensional Fourier and Hilbert transforms, respectively ;

$f$  is a function ;

$j$  is the complex operator such that  $j^2 = -1$  ; and

$\text{sgn}$  is the sign function which is defined by

$$\text{sgn}(\omega) = +1 \text{ if } \omega > 0$$

$$\text{sgn}(\omega) = -1 \text{ if } \omega < 0$$

$$\text{sgn}(\omega) = 0 \text{ if } \omega = 0.$$

The next relationship is easily derived from equation (1) :

$$FT[H_2(g)](\omega, k) = -\text{sgn}(\omega, k) \cdot FT[g](\omega, k)$$

where  $FT_2$  and  $H_2$  are the two-dimensional Fourier and Hilbert transforms respectively.

$FT_2[g_u](\omega, k)$  can then be expressed in the following form :

$$FT_2[g_u](\omega, k) = 1/2 (FT_2[g](\omega, k) + FT_2[H_2(g)](\omega, k))$$

whence :

$$FT2[g_u](\omega, k) = \frac{1 - \operatorname{sgn}(\omega, k)}{2} \cdot FT2[g](\omega, k)$$

The coefficient  $(1 - \operatorname{sgn}(\omega, k))/2$  is equal to 1 in quadrants II and IV and is equal to 0 in quadrants I and III of the Figure 3 plot, thus showing that the function  $g_u$  contains upgoing waves only.

It can similarly be shown that

$$FT2[g_d](\omega, k) = \frac{1 + \operatorname{sgn}(\omega, k)}{2} \cdot FT2[g](\omega, k)$$

which means that the function  $g_d$  is equal to the signal  $g$  in quadrants I and III, and is equal to 0 in quadrants II and IV, i.e. that the function  $g_d$  contains downgoing waves only.

Velocity filtering in accordance with the invention thus consists in applying the operator  $R$  equal to  $1/2 \cdot [Id + \epsilon H_2]$ , to the recorded signal  $g(z, t)$ , with  $Id$  being the identity operator and  $\epsilon = -1$  or  $+1$  depending on whether the upgoing waves or the downgoing waves are to be obtained.

The two-dimensional Hilbert transform  $H_2$  comprises a transform  $H_1$  with respect to the variable  $t$  and a transform  $H_z$  with respect to the variable  $z$ . In order to apply these transforms directly, it is necessary for the number of samples in the signal along the variable in question to be large, for example not less than 100.

There is no problem for the  $H_1$  transform since several thousand points are generally available along the  $t$ -axis.

In contrast, the number of points along the  $z$ -axis, i.e. the number of recorded signals  $g_i(t)$  with  $1 \leq i \leq n$  is limited for reasons of cost. The operator  $H_z$  cannot therefore be applied directly.

In accordance with the invention, the operator  $H_z$  is replaced by a differentiation operator  $D_z$ , i.e. an operator operating on a limited number of points along the  $z$ -axis and which constitutes an approximation to the operator  $H_z$ , and the operator  $R$  modified in this way is applied recursively.

More precisely, the operator  $R$  equal to

$$1/2 [Id + \epsilon H_1 H_z]$$

is replaced by the operator  $A$  which is equal to

$$1/2 [Id + \epsilon B \cdot H_1 D_z]$$

where  $B$  is a normalization coefficient whose value depends on the signal  $g$  to which the operator  $A$  is applied in such a manner that the norm of the signal  $A[g]$  is equal to the norm of the signal  $g$ .

Particular implementations of the operators  $H_1$  and  $D_z$  are now described.

The Hilbert transform  $H_1$  may be implemented by any of the methods known to the person skilled in the art. In particular, the conventional formulation of the Hilbert transform using a convolution may be used:

$$H_1(g) = g \cdot \operatorname{CONV} \cdot (1/t)$$

However, it is preferable to use the following equation deduced from equation (1):

$$H_1(g) = \operatorname{IFT} [j \cdot \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \operatorname{FT}_t(g)]$$

where  $\operatorname{IFT}_t$  is the inverse Fourier transform.

In this equation, the Hilbert transform of the function  $g$  is obtained by calculating the Fourier transform of the function  $g$ , multiplying the result by  $j \cdot \operatorname{sgn}(\omega)$ , and calculating the inverse transform. This method has the advantages of being very fast and of providing a very accurate result. As for the operator  $D_z$ , it is advantageous to use an expression of the following form:

$$D_z[g(z)] = \sum_{m=1}^1 \frac{g(z+2m-1) - g(z-2m+1)}{2m-1}$$

where  $l$  is an integer whose value is not more than a few units. For  $l = 1$ ,  $D$  constitutes a three-level filter and for  $l = 2$  it constitutes a seven-level filter.

It has been observed experimentally that filtering is already very effective for  $l = 1$ .

In this particular case, the filtering process of the invention may be explained, from a theoretical point of view, as follows.

From equation (1) it can be deduced that the Hilbert transform  $H_1$  has  $j \cdot \sin(\omega)$  as its transfer function. Similarly,  $H_z$  has  $j \cdot \sin(k)$  as its transfer function. From this it can be deduced that the operator  $R$  has a transfer function  $T(R)$  equal to:

$$(1 - \sin(\omega) \cdot \sin(k))/2.$$

In the operator  $A$ ,  $H_z$  is replaced by  $D_z$ . When  $l = 1$ , it is shown that  $D_z$  has  $j \cdot \sin(k)$  as its transfer function. The transfer function  $T(A)$  of the operator  $A$  is thus:

$$T(A) = \frac{1 - \sin(\omega) \cdot \sin(k)}{2}$$

Figures 4 and 5 are diagrams of the transfer functions  $T(R)$  and  $T(A)$  in the  $\omega$ - $k$  plot of the F-K transform domain. The coefficients shown in the quadrants are the multiplicative coefficients applied to each signal sample in the quadrant.

In Figure 4, the value of the multiplicative coefficient switches abruptly from one value to another when moving from one of the quadrants into an adjacent quadrant. As mentioned above, this gives rise to defects in the filtered signal, and in particular it gives rise to spectrum folding.

In contrast, it can be seen that the value of the multiplicative coefficients shown in Figure 5 changes continuously on moving from one quadrant to another. This explains why a signal filtered in accordance with the method of the present invention does not suffer from spectrum folding.

It is also recalled that in accordance with the invention the operator  $A$  is applied recursively to the recorded signal  $g(z, t)$ . Thus, in fact, it is the operator  $A^p$  for integer  $p$  that is applied, and the multiplicative coefficients are the coefficients shown in Figure 5 raised to the power  $p$ . It is clear that  $A^p$  gets closer to  $R$  for increasing  $p$ .

It has been observed experimentally that, for upgoing waves, the filtered signal is already usable with  $p = 1$ , and becomes very good with  $p = 2$ . As for downgoing waves, the filtered signal is already good with  $p = 1$  since the signal/noise ratio for these waves is higher than for upgoing waves.

When filtering to show up the upgoing waves, it is possible to apply bandpass filtering over the band [2 Hz, 50 Hz] after each application of the operator  $A$  in order to remove residual high frequency downgoing waves.

Figure 6 shows a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  recorded by means of an installation such as that shown in Figure 1. The upgoing waves are not apparent in this raw signal.

Figure 7 shows a signal obtained after applying three-level filtering to the Figure 6 signal with an operator  $A$  for which  $z = +1$  and  $l = 1$ . The upgoing waves show up much more clearly, while the downgoing waves are attenuated.

The signal shown in Figure 8 is the result of reapplying the operator  $A$  on the Figure 7 signal. The upgoing waves are nearly perfect and the residual downgoing waves can hardly be seen.

Figure 9 shows the result of applying the operator  $A$  to the Figure 8 signal. Figure 9 is practically identical to Figure 8 which means that filtering convergence has already been obtained in Figure 8.

Figure 10 shows another signal recorded by means of an installation such as that shown in Figure 1. This signal has been filtered in accordance with the invention using an operator  $A$  for which  $z = +1$  and  $l = 1$ , and

with an operator A in which  $\varepsilon = -1$  and  $l = 1$ . The corresponding upgoing and downgoing signals are shown respectively in Figures 11 and 12.

Figure 13 is a flow chart applicable to an installation in accordance with the invention for filtering a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ .

This installation comprises a memory 22 for receiving the detection signals  $g_i(t)$ , for  $1 < i < n$  constituting the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ .

This memory is controlled to provide the necessary signals  $g_i(t)$  to calculating means 24 in order to produce the result of applying the operator  $D_z$  to the signal  $g(z, t)$ . E.g., when the operator  $D_z$  is defined by  $D_z[h(z)] = h(z-1) - h(z+1)$  for some function  $h$ , the memory is controlled to provide the calculating means 24 with pairs of values  $\{g_i(t), g_{i+2}(t)\}$  for  $1 < i < n-2$ .

The signal  $D_z[g(z, t)]$  delivered by the calculating means 24 is then received by calculating means 26 which produces the Hilbert transform relative to the variable  $t$ . This Hilbert transform may be performed in any known manner, and in particular, as mentioned above, it may be performed using the Fourier transform in the following equation:

$$H_t(g) = iFT\{[sgn(\omega) \cdot FT_d(g)]\}$$

The signal  $H_t D_z[g(z, t)]$  delivered by the calculating means 26 is applied to one of the inputs of calculating means 28; the signal contained in the memory 22 is applied to the other input of the calculating means 28. This calculating means 28 calculates the value of the coefficient B which appears in the operator A of methods in accordance with the invention to make the operator A conserve the amplitude of the signal applied thereto.

The coefficient B delivered by the calculating means 28 is then multiplied by the signal delivered by the calculating means 26 in a multiplier 30. The multiplier 30 also receives the coefficient  $\varepsilon$  whose value is fixed by the user:  $\varepsilon = +1$  if the upgoing waves in the signal  $g(z, t)$  are to be retained, or else  $\varepsilon = -1$  if the downgoing waves are to be retained.

The signal  $\varepsilon B H_t D_z[g(z, t)]$  delivered by the multiplier 30 is received on one of the inputs to an adder 32 whose other input receives the signal contained in the memory 22. The resulting signal is then applied to one of the inputs of a divide-by-two circuit 34.

The means 24 to 34 constitute a particular embodiment for implementing the operator A. In accordance with the invention, this operator is applied recursively. The number of times  $l$  that this operator is applied to the two-dimensional signal may be loaded, for example, into a counter 36 which controls a multiplexer 38.

The input of the multiplexer is connected to the output from the divider 34; one of its outputs is connected to the memory 40 and its other output is connected to the memory 22. The counter is initially loaded with the value  $l$  and is decremented each time the operator A is applied. So long as the contents of the counter is not zero, the divider 34 is connected to the memory 22. When the counter reaches the value 0, the divider 34 is connected to the memory 40.

A recorder 42 is connected to the memory 40 in order to produce a graphical recording of the processed two-dimensional signal as shown in Figures 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12.

Figures 7, 8, 9, and 11 show signals which contain only upgoing wave components. In these signals, all of the upgoing waves are present regardless of their velocities. Similarly, the signal shown in Figure 12 includes all of the downgoing wave components, regardless of their velocities.

It is possible to perform filtering over a fan so as to retain only those waves whose velocities lie in a predetermined velocity band. Such filtering serves to eliminate noise components and components which are not applicable to the intended analysis to be performed on the detected signal  $g(z, t)$ .

For example, instead of conserving all of the upgoing waves, i.e. all of quadrants II and IV in the Figure 3 plot, it may be desirable to conserve only those waves whose velocities lie in the band  $[V_{c1}, V_{c2}]$ , i.e. in the unshaded portion of the plot shown in Figure 14.

Such fan filtering may be obtained in three stages by using the method of separating upgoing and downgoing components in accordance with the invention. The first stage consists in processing the signal  $g(z, t)$  to produce a first signal  $g_1(z, t)$  from which all waves having a velocity of less than  $V_{c1}$  have been eliminated.

Similarly, the second stage consists in processing the signal  $g_1(z, t)$  in order to produce a second signal  $g_2(z, t)$  from which all waves having a velocity less than  $V_{c2}$  have been eliminated.

Finally, the third stage consists in subtracting the signal  $g_2(z, t)$  from the signal  $g_1(z, t)$  in order to produce a signal  $g_{12}(z, t)$  which contains only those waves whose velocities lie between  $V_{c1}$  and  $V_{c2}$ .

The first stage of such range filtering is described with reference to Figures 15a to 15e. In Figure 15a, three upgoing waves having different velocities  $V_{c0}$ ,  $V_{c1}$ , and  $V_{c2}$  such that  $V_{c0} > V_{c1} > V_{c2}$  are shown diagrammatically.

To begin with, the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  constituting the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  are time shifted



such that in each signal  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$  the components of waves at velocity  $V_{C1}$  are aligned. As a result the upgoing wave of velocity  $V_{C2}$  becomes a downgoing wave (Figure 15b). Such shifting is described in above-mentioned patent document FR-A-2 494 450, but for use in a different application.

The velocity filtering method in accordance with the invention is then applied in order to show up the upgoing wave components in the shifted signal. In the transform domain plot shown in Figure 15c, this gives rise to a high degree of attenuation for the waves contained in quadrants I and III. In the time domain plot of Figure 15d, waves of velocities less than  $V_{C1}$  are emphasized whereas waves of velocities greater than  $V_{C1}$  are highly attenuated.

The first stage terminates by shifting the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  back again in order to cancel the time shift performed initially. This gives rise to the signal  $g_1(z, t)$  which is shown in the Figure 15e plot.

The second stage is identical to the first stage except that the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  are time shifted so that wave components of velocity  $V_{C2}$  are aligned in the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$ .

The time shifts performed at the beginning of the first and second stages are delays when the velocities  $V_{C1}$  and  $V_{C2}$  are positive (upgoing waves); the shifts would be advances if the velocities were negative (downgoing waves).

A signal  $g_{12}(z, t)$  which predominantly contains waves whose velocities lie in the band  $[V_{C1}, V_{C2}]$  is obtained merely by taking the difference between the signal  $g_1(z, t)$  produced in the first stage and the signal  $g_2(z, t)$  produced in the second stage.

## Claims

1. A method of seismic exploration by filtering a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  built up from a set of signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$  as produced by at least one seismic wave detector placed at different depths  $z_1, \dots, z_2, \dots, z_n$  in a borehole, each of said signals being produced in response to seismic waves being emitted, and said signals including upgoing wave components and downgoing wave components, said filtering consisting in separating said components and the method being characterized in that the operator A is applied to the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ , where:

$$A = 1/2 [Id + \varepsilon \cdot B \cdot H_1 \cdot D_1]$$

in which:

Id is the identity operator;

B is a normalization factor whose value depends on the signal to which the operator A is applied;

$H_1$  is the one-dimensional Hilbert operator with respect to the variable  $t$ ;

D is a differentiation operator with respect to the variable  $z$ ; and

$\varepsilon$  is an integer equal to +1 or -1;

said operator being applied recursively to said two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ , with the resulting signal being predominantly constituted by upgoing waves when  $\varepsilon = +1$  and by downgoing waves when  $\varepsilon = -1$ .

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the operator  $D_2$  is defined by:

$$D_z[g(z)] = \sum_{m=1}^l \frac{g(z+2m-1) - g(z-2m+1)}{2m-1}$$

where  $g$  is some function and  $l$  is an integer.

3. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that  $l$  is equal to 1.

4. A method according to claim 2, characterized in that  $l$  is equal to 2.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the operator  $H_1$  is defined by:

$$H_1[g(t)] = \text{IFT} [j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}(g(t))]$$

where:

$g$  is some function;

FT represents the Fourier transform;

IFT represents the inverse Fourier transform;  
 $\text{sgn}(\omega)$  designates the sign of the variable  $\omega$ , which is the dual of  $t$ ; and  
 $j$  is the complex operator such that  $j^2 = -1$ .

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the operator A is applied once only to the signal  $g(z, t)$ .

7. A method of velocity filtering a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  built up from a set of signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$ , said signals being produced by sound wave detectors placed at different depths  $z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}, z_n$  down a borehole, each signal being produced in response to sound waves being emitted from a source on the surface, the velocity filtering serving to reinforce waves in the signal  $g(z, t)$  having velocities lying between predetermined velocities  $V_{c1}$  and  $V_{c2}$ , said method being characterized in that it comprises the following operations:

- A) a) producing a first shifted two-dimensional signal by applying a time shift to the signal  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  in order to time align the wave components of velocity  $V_{c1}$  in the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$ ;
- b) filtering said shifted signal using the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6;
- c) producing a first two-dimensional signal  $g_1(z, t)$  by time shifting the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  of said filtered signal in such a manner as to cancel the preceding time shift;
- B) a) producing a second shifted two-dimensional signal by performing a time shift on the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  in order to time align the wave components of velocity  $V_{c2}$  in the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$ ;
- b) filtering said shifted signal using the method according to any one of claims 1 to 6;
- c) producing a second two-dimensional signal  $g_2(z, t)$  by time shifting the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $2 < i < n$  of said filtered signal in order to cancel the preceding time shift; and
- C) taking the difference between the signals  $g_1(z, t)$  and  $g_2(z, t)$  in order to produce a signal  $g_{12}(z, t)$  which is predominately constituted by waves having velocities lying between  $V_{c1}$  and  $V_{c2}$ .

8. A seismic exploration installation for implementing the method according to claim 1, the installation comprising at least one sound wave detector together with means for displacing said detector along a borehole, means for recording a two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$  constituted by the signals  $g_i(t)$  for  $1 < i < n$  produced by the detector, said signals including upgoing wave components and downgoing wave components, and velocity filtering means for separating said components, the installation being characterized in that said velocity filtering means comprise:

- a memory (22) for receiving the two-dimensional signal  $g(z, t)$ ;
- calculating means (24) for applying the discrete differentiation operator  $D_x$  with respect to the variable  $z$  in the signal contained in the memory (22);
- calculating means (26) for applying the Hilbert operator  $H_t$  with respect to the variable  $t$  to the signal delivered by the preceding calculating means (24);
- calculating means (28) for determining the value of the coefficient B as a function of the signals delivered by the memory (22) and by the preceding calculating means (26);
- a multiplier (30) for multiplying together the coefficient  $s$ , the coefficient B, and the signal produced by the calculating means (26);
- an adder (32) receiving the signal contained in the memory (22) and the signal produced by the multiplier (30);
- a divide-by-two circuit (34) receiving the signal produced by the adder (32);
- a multiplexer (38) having one input connected to the output from the divide-by-two circuit (34) and having two outputs, one of which is connected to a memory (40) and the other of which is connected to the calculating means (24);
- a counter (36) controlling the multiplexer, said counter controlling the number of times the operator A is applied to the signal  $g(z, t)$ ;
- and recording means (42) connected to the memory (40).

9. An installation according to claim 8, characterized in that the calculating means (24) implements the operator  $D_z$  defined by:

$$D_z[g(z)] = \sum_{m=1}^1 \frac{g(z+2m-1) - g(z-2m+1)}{2m-1}$$

where  $g$  is some function and  $1$  is an integer.

10. An installation according to claim 9, characterized in that  $j$  is equal to 1.  
 11. An installation according to claim 9, characterized in that  $j$  is equal to 2.  
 12. An installation according to any of claims 8 to 11, characterized in that the calculating means (26) implements the operator  $H_j$  defined by:

$$H_j[g(t)] = \text{IFT} [j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}[g(t)]]$$

where:

- $g$  is some function;  
 FT represents the Fourier transform;  
 IFT represents the inverse Fourier transform;  
 $\text{sgn}(\omega)$  designates the sign of the variable  $\omega$ , which is the dual of  $t$ ; and  
 $j$  is the complex operator such that  $j^2 = -1$ .  
 13. An installation according to any one of claims 8 to 12, characterized in that the counter (36) controls the multiplexer (38) so that the operator  $A$  is applied only once to the signal  $g(z, t)$ .  
 14. An installation according to any one of claims 8 to 13, characterized in that it further includes means for time shifting the signals  $g(t)$  for  $2 < l < n$  constituting the signal  $g(z, t)$  stored in the memories (22, 40), together with means for subtracting the signals  $g_1(z, t)$  and  $g_2(z, t)$  contained in the memory (40) from each other.

### Patentansprüche

1. Ein seismisches Explorationsverfahren durch Filtern eines zweidimensionalen Signals  $g(z, t)$ , aufgebaut aus einem Satz von Signalen  $g_i(t)$  für  $1 < i < n$ , wie es erzeugt wird durch mindestens einen seismischen Wellendetektor, der an unterschiedlichen Tiefen  $z_1, \dots, z_n$  in einem Bohrloch platziert ist, wobei jedes der genannten Signale erzeugt wird im Ansprechen auf ausgesandte seismische Wellen und die Signale aufwärts gehende Wellenkomponenten und abwärts gehende Wellenkomponenten umfassen, wobei das Filtern darin besteht, die Komponenten zu trennen, welches Verfahren dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß der Operator  $A$  auf das zweidimensionale Signal  $g(z, t)$  angewandt wird, worin

$$A = 1/2 [Id + \varepsilon \cdot B \cdot H_j \cdot D_\varepsilon]$$

worin

- $Id$  der Identitätsoperator ist;  
 $B$  ein Normierungsfaktor ist, dessen Wert abhängt von dem Signal, auf das der Operator  $A$  angewandt wird;  
 $H_j$  der eindimensionale Hilbert-Operator bezüglich der Variablen  $t$  ist;  
 $D_\varepsilon$  ein Differenzierungsoperator bezüglich der Variablen  $z$  ist; und  
 $\varepsilon$  eine ganze Zahl gleich  $+1$  oder  $-1$  ist;  
 welcher Operator rekursiv auf das zweidimensionale Signal  $g(z, t)$  angewandt wird, wobei das resultierende Signal überwiegend gebildet wird durch aufwärts gehende Wellen, wenn  $\varepsilon = +1$  ist, und durch abwärts gehende Wellen, wenn  $\varepsilon = -1$  ist.  
 2. Ein Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Operator  $D_\varepsilon$  definiert ist durch

$$D_\varepsilon[g(z)] = \sum_{m=1}^1 \frac{g(z+2m-1) - g(z-2m-1)}{2m-1}$$

worin  $g$  eine Funktion ist und  $j$  eine ganze Zahl ist.

3. Ein Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß  $j$  gleich 1 ist.  
 4. Ein Verfahren nach Anspruch 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß  $j$  gleich 2 ist.  
 5. Ein Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Operator  $H_j$  definiert ist durch:

$$H_j[g(t)] = \text{IFT} [j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}[g(t)]]$$

worin

g eine Funktion ist ;  
 FT die Fourier-Transformation repräsentiert ;  
 IFT die Inverse Fourier-Transformation repräsentiert ;  
 $\text{sgn}(n)$  das Vorzeichen der Variablen  $n$  bezeichnet, was das Duale von  $t$  ist ; und  
 $j$  der Komplexoperator ist derart, daß  $j^2 = -1$  ist.

6. Ein Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Operator A nur einmal auf das Signal  $g(z, t)$  angewandt wird.

7. Ein Verfahren der Geschwindigkeitsfilterung eines zweidimensionalen Signals  $g(z, t)$ , aufgebaut aus einem Satz von Signalen  $g_i(t)$  für  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , welche Signale erzeugt werden durch Schallwellendetektoren, die an unterschiedlichen Tiefen  $z_1, \dots, z_p, \dots, z_n$  im Teufenbereich eines Bohrlochs platziert sind, wobei jedes Signal erzeugt wird im Ansprechen auf Schallwellen, die von einer an der Erdoberfläche befindlichen Quelle emittiert werden, wobei die Geschwindigkeitsfilterung dazu dient, die Wellen in dem Signal  $g(z, t)$  zu verstärken mit Geschwindigkeiten, die zwischen vorbestimmten Geschwindigkeiten  $V_{c1}$  und  $V_{c2}$  liegen, welches Verfahren dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß es die folgenden Schritte umfaßt:

A) e) Erzeugen eines ersten zweidimensionalen Signals durch Anwenden einer Zeitverschiebung auf das Signal  $g_i(t)$  für  $2 \leq i \leq n$  zwecks zeitlicher Ausfluchtung der Wellenkomponenten der Geschwindigkeit  $V_{c1}$  in den Signalen  $g_i(t)$  für  $1 \leq i \leq n$  ;

b) Filtern der verschobenen Signale unter Verwendung des Verfahrens nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6 ;

c) Erzeugen eines ersten zweidimensionalen Signals  $g_1(z, t)$  durch Zeitverschiebung der Signale  $g_i(t)$  für  $2 \leq i \leq n$  des gefilterten Signals derart, daß die vorhergehende Zeitverschiebung ausgelöscht wird ;

B) e) Erzeugen eines zweiten zweidimensionalen Signals durch Ausführen einer Zeitverschiebung auf die Signale  $g_i(t)$  für  $2 \leq i \leq n$  zwecks zeitlicher Ausfluchtung der Wellenkomponenten der Geschwindigkeit  $V_{c2}$  in den Signalen  $g_i(t)$  für  $1 \leq i \leq n$  ;

b) Filtern des verschobenen Signals unter Verwendung des Verfahrens nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6 ;

c) Erzeugen eines zweiten zweidimensionalen Signals  $g_2(z, t)$  durch Zeitverschiebung der Signale  $g_i(t)$  für  $2 \leq i \leq n$  des gefilterten Signals zwecks Auslöschung der vorhergehenden Zeitverschiebung, und

C) Verwenden der Differenz zwischen den Signalen  $g_1(z, t)$  und  $g_2(z, t)$  zwecks Erzeugung eines Signals  $g_{12}(z, t)$ , das überwiegend von Wellen gebildet wird mit Geschwindigkeiten, die zwischen  $V_{c1}$  und  $V_{c2}$  liegen.

8. Seismische Explorationsanlage für die Durchführung des Verfahrens nach Anspruch 1, welche Anlage mindestens einen Schallwellendetektor mit Mitteln für die Verlegung des Detektors längs eines Bohrlochs umfaßt, Mittel für das Aufzeichnen eines zweidimensionalen Signals  $g(z, t)$  umfaßt, gebildet durch die Signale  $g_i(t)$  für  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , erzeugt von dem Detektor, welche Signale aufwärts gehende Wellenkomponenten und abwärts gehende Wellenkomponenten umfassen, und Geschwindigkeitsfiltermittel für das Trennen der genannten Komponenten, welche Anlage dadurch gekennzeichnet ist, daß die Geschwindigkeitsfiltermittel umfassen :

einen Speicher (22) für den Empfang des zweidimensionalen Signals  $g(z, t)$  ;

Berechnungsmittel (24) für die Anwendung des diskreten Differenzierungsoperators  $D_z$  bezüglich der Variablen  $z$  in dem in dem Speicher (22) enthaltenen Signal ;

Berechnungsmittel (26) für das Anwenden des Hilbert-Operators  $H_t$  bezüglich der Variablen  $t$  auf das Signal, geliefert von den vorhergehenden Berechnungsmitteln (24) ;

Berechnungsmittel (28) für die Bestimmung des Wertes des Koeffizienten B als Funktion der Signale, geliefert von dem Speicher (22) und von dem vorhergehenden Berechnungsmittel (26) ;

eine Multipliziereinrichtung (30) für das Multiplizieren des Koeffizienten  $B$  des Koeffizienten B und des Signals, erzeugt durch die Berechnungsmittel (26) ;

eine Addiereinrichtung (32), die das in dem Speicher (22) enthaltene Signal und das von der Multipliziereinrichtung (30) erzeugte Signal empfängt ;

einen durch zwei teilenden Schaltkreis (34), der das von der Addiereinrichtung (32) erzeugte Signal empfängt ;

einen Multiplexer (36), der mit einem Eingang an den Ausgang des durch zwei dividierenden Schaltkreises (34) angeschlossen ist, und zwei Ausgänge aufweist, von denen der eine an einen Speicher (40) angeschlossen ist und der andere an die Berechnungsmittel (24) ;

einen Zähler (38), der den Multiplexer steuert und die Anzahl von Meilen steuert, wie oft der Operator A auf das Signal  $g(z, t)$  angewandt wird ; und

Aufzeichnungsmittel (42), die an den Speicher (40) angeschlossen sind.

9. Eine Anlage nach Anspruch 8, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Berechnungsmittel (24) den Operator  $D_z$  implementieren, definiert durch :

$$D_z[g(z)] = \sum_{m=1}^1 \frac{g(z+2m-1) - g(z-2m+1)}{2m-1}$$

worin  $g$  eine Funktion und  $l$  eine ganze Zahl ist.

10. Eine Anlage nach Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß  $l$  gleich 1 ist.

11. Eine Anlage nach Anspruch 9, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß  $l$  gleich 2 ist.

12. Eine Anlage nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 11, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Berechnungsmittel (26) den Operator  $H_l$  implementieren, definiert durch :

$$H_l[g(t)] = \text{IFT} [l \cdot \text{egn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}(g(t))]$$

worin

$g$  eine Funktion ist ;

FT die Fourier-Transformation repräsentiert ;

IFT die Inverse Fourier-Transformation repräsentiert ;

$\text{egn}(\omega)$  das Vorzeichen der Variablen  $\omega$  bezeichnet, die das Dual von  $t$  ist ; und

$l$  der Komplexoperator ist darat, daß  $l^2 = -1$ .

13. Eine Anlage nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 12, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Zähler (36) den Multiplexer (36) derart steuert, daß der Operator A nur einmal auf das Signal  $g(z, t)$  angewandt wird.

14. Eine Anlage nach einem der Ansprüche 8 bis 13, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß sie ferner Mittel umfaßt für die Zeitverschiebung der Signal  $g_i(t)$  für  $2 < i < n$ , welche das Signal  $g(z, t)$ , abgespeichert in den Speichern (22, 40), bildet, zusammen mit Mitteln für das Subtrahieren der Signale  $g_1(z, t)$  und  $g_2(z, t)$ , enthalten im Speicher (40) voneinander.

## Revendications

1. Procédé d'exploration sismique dans lequel on filtre un signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$  composé d'un ensemble de signaux  $g_i(t)$  où  $1 < i < n$ , produits par au moins un détecteur d'ondes sismiques placé à différentes profondeurs  $z_1, \dots, z_2, \dots, z_n$  dans un puits, chaque signal étant produit en réponse à une émission d'ondes sismiques, lesdits signaux comprenant des composantes d'onde remontante et des composantes d'onde descendante, ledit filtrage consistant à séparer lesdites composantes et étant caractérisé en ce qu'on applique au signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$  l'opérateur A défini par :

$$A = 1/2 [Id + \varepsilon B H_z D_z]$$

où

— Id est l'opérateur identité,

— B est un facteur de normalisation, dont la valeur dépend du signal auquel l'opérateur A est appliqué,

—  $H_z$  est l'opérateur de Hilbert unidimensionnel relatif à la variable  $z$ ,

— D est un opérateur de différentiation relatif à la variable  $z$ , et

—  $\varepsilon$  est un entier égal à  $+1$  ou  $-1$ ,

ledit opérateur étant appliqué de manière récursive audit signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$ , le signal résultant comprenant de façon prédominante les ondes remontantes lorsque  $\varepsilon = +1$ , et les ondes descendantes lorsque  $\varepsilon = -1$ .

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce que l'opérateur  $D_z$  est défini par :

$$D_z(g(z)) = \sum_{n=1}^L \frac{g(z+2n-1) - g(z-2n+1)}{2n-1}$$

où  $g$  est une fonction quelconque et  $l$  est un nombre entier.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 2 caractérisé en ce que  $l$  est égal à 1.

4. Procédé selon la revendication 2, caractérisé en ce que  $l$  est égal à 2.

5. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, caractérisé en ce que l'opérateur  $H_l$  est défini par :

$$H_l(g(t)) = \text{IFT}[\text{L} \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}(g(t))]$$

où  $g$  est une fonction quelconque

FT représente la transformation de Fourier

IFT représente la transformation de Fourier inverse

$\text{sgn}(\omega)$  note le signe de la variable  $\omega$ , dual de  $t$

$j$  est le nombre complexe tel que  $j^2 = -1$ .

6. Procédé selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, caractérisé en ce que l'opérateur  $A$  est appliqué une seule fois au signal  $g(z, t)$ .

7. Procédé de filtrage de vitesse d'un signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$  composé d'un ensemble de signaux  $g_i(t)$ , où  $1 < i < n$  produits par détecteurs d'ondes acoustiques placés à différentes profondeurs  $z_1, \dots, z_i, \dots, z_n$  dans un puits, chaque signal étant produit en réponse à une émission d'ondes acoustiques à partir d'une source en surface, pour renforcer les ondes du signal  $g(z, t)$  ayant une vitesse comprise entre des vitesses prédéterminées  $V_{c1}$  et  $V_{c2}$ , ledit procédé étant caractérisé en ce qu'il comprend les opérations suivantes :

A) produire un premier signal bidimensionnel décalé en effectuant un décalage temporel des signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $2 < i < n$ , pour aligner temporellement dans les signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $1 < i < n$ , les composantes des ondes de vitesse  $V_{c1}$ ,

b) filtrer ledit signal décalé selon le procédé conforme à l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6,

c) produire un premier signal bidimensionnel  $g_1(z, t)$  en effectuant un décalage temporel des signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $2 < i < n$ , dudit signal filtré, pour annuler le décalage temporel précédent,

B) produire un second signal bidimensionnel décalé en effectuant un décalage temporel des signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $2 < i < n$ , pour aligner temporellement dans les signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $1 < i < n$ , les composantes des ondes de vitesse  $V_{c2}$ ,

b) filtrer ledit signal décalé selon le procédé conforme à l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6,

c) produire un second signal bidimensionnel  $g_2(z, t)$  en effectuant un décalage temporel des signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $2 < i < n$ , dudit signal filtré, pour annuler le décalage temporel précédent,

C) faire la différence des signaux  $g_1(z, t)$  et  $g_2(z, t)$  pour produire un signal  $g_{12}(z, t)$  comprenant de façon prédominante les ondes ayant une vitesse comprise entre  $V_{c1}$  et  $V_{c2}$ .

8. Installation d'exploration sismique pour la mise en oeuvre du procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant au moins un détecteur d'ondes acoustiques et des moyens pour déplacer ce détecteur dans un puits, des moyens pour enregistrer un signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$  constitué par les signaux  $g_i(t)$ ,  $1 < i < n$ , produits par le détecteur, lesdits signaux comprenant des composantes d'onde descendante et des composantes d'onde remontante, et des moyens de filtrage en vitesse pour séparer lesdites composantes, caractérisé en ce que lesdits moyens de filtrage comprennent :

— une mémoire (22) pour recevoir le signal bidimensionnel  $g(z, t)$ ,

— un moyen de calcul (24) pour appliquer l'opérateur  $D_z$  de différentiation discret relativement à la variable  $z$  au signal contenu dans la mémoire (22),

— un moyen de calcul (26) pour appliquer l'opérateur  $H_l$  de Hilbert relativement à la variable  $t$  au signal délivré par le moyen de calcul (24) précédent,

— un moyen de calcul (28) pour déterminer la valeur du coefficient  $B$  en fonction des signaux délivrés par la mémoire (22) et par le moyen de calcul (26) précédent,

— un multiplieur (30) pour multiplier entre eux le coefficient  $e$ , le coefficient  $B$  et le signal produit par le moyen de calcul (28),

— un additionneur (32) recevant le signal contenu dans la mémoire (22) et le signal produit par le multiplieur (30),

— un diviseur par deux (34) recevant le signal produit par l'additionneur (32),

— un multiplieur (38) à une entrée, reliée à la sortie du diviseur par deux (34), et deux sorties, l'une reliée

à une mémoire (40) et l'autre au moyen de calcul (24),

- un compteur (36) commandant le multiplexeur, ledit compteur contrôlant le nombre de fois où l'opérateur A est appliqué au signal  $g(z, t)$ ,
- un moyen d'enregistrement (42) relié à la mémoire (40).

9. Installation selon la revendication 8, caractérisée en ce que le moyen de calcul (24) met en oeuvre l'opérateur  $D_z$  défini par :

$$D_z (g(z)) = \sum_{n=1}^l \frac{g(z+2n-1) - g(z-2n+1)}{2n-1}$$

où  $g$  est une fonction quelconque et  $l$  est un nombre entier.

10. Installation selon la revendication 9, caractérisée en ce que  $l$  est égal à 1.

11. Installation selon la revendication 9, caractérisée en ce que  $l$  est égal à 2.

12. Installation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 11, caractérisée en ce que le moyen de calcul (26) met en oeuvre l'opérateur  $H_j$  défini par :

$$H_j(g(t)) = \text{IFT } [j \cdot \text{sgn}(\omega) \cdot \text{FT}(g(t))]$$

où

$g$  est une fonction quelconque

FT représente la transformation de Fourier

IFT représente la transformation de Fourier inverse

$\text{sgn}(\omega)$  note le signe de la variable  $\omega$ , dual de  $t$

$j$  est le nombre complexe tel que  $j^2 = -1$

13. Installation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 12, caractérisée en ce que le compteur (36) commande le multiplexeur (38) pour que l'opérateur A ne soit appliqué qu'une seule fois au signal  $g(z, t)$ .

14. Installation selon l'une quelconque des revendications 8 à 13 caractérisée en ce qu'elle comprend en outre des moyens pour décaler temporellement les signaux  $g_1(t)$ ,  $2 < l < n$ , constituant le signal  $g(z, t)$  mémorisés dans les mémoires (22, 40) et des moyens pour soustraire entre eux des signaux  $g_1(z, t)$ ,  $g_2(z, t)$  contenus dans la mémoire (40).

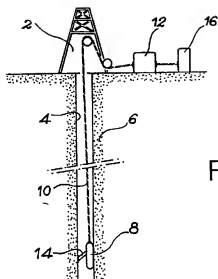


FIG. 1

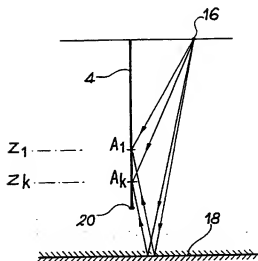


FIG. 2



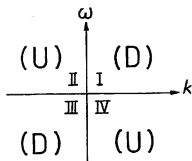


FIG. 3

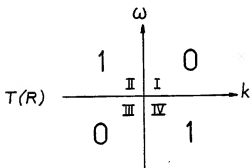


FIG. 4

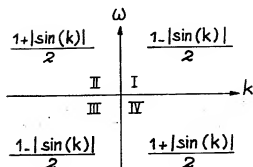


FIG. 5

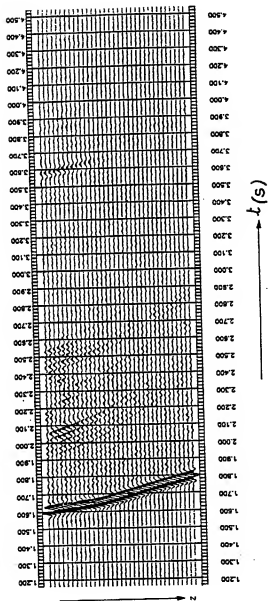


FIG. 6

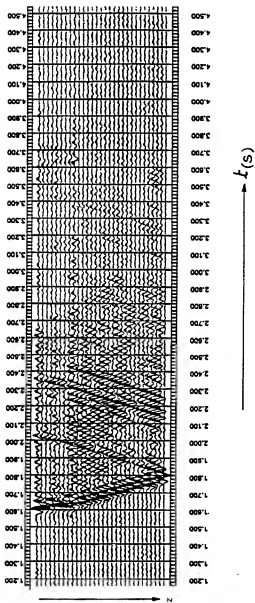


FIG. 7

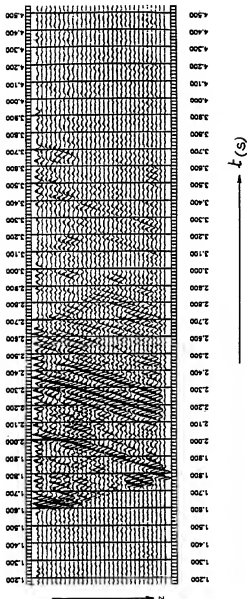


FIG. 8

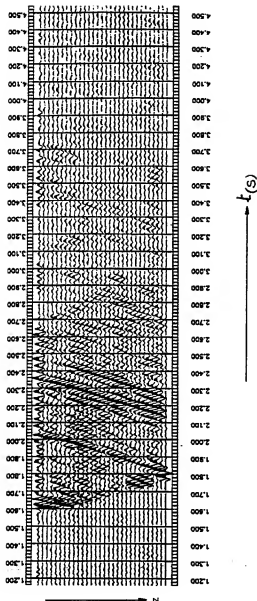


FIG.9

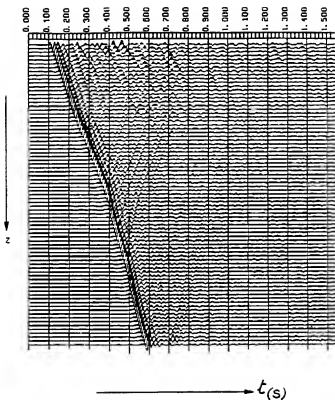


FIG. 10

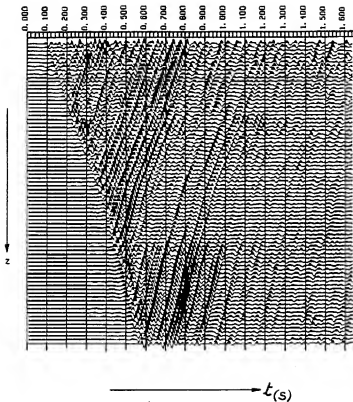


FIG. 11

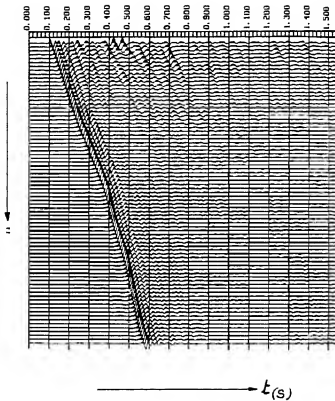


FIG. 12



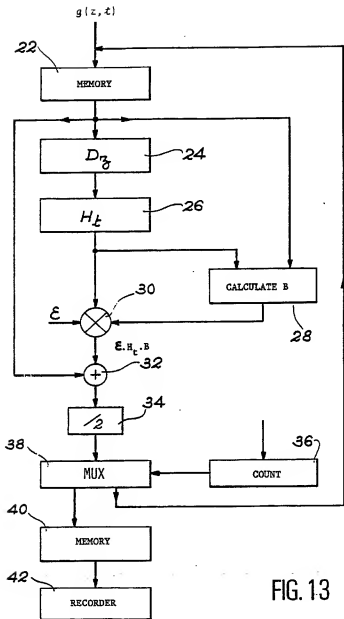


FIG. 13

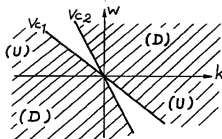


FIG. 14

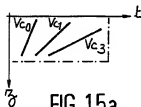


FIG. 15a

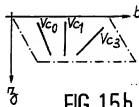


FIG. 15b

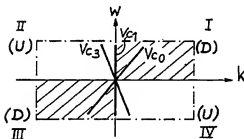


FIG. 15c

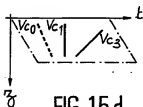


FIG. 15d

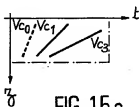


FIG. 15e